DANCING DRAWER 3A RECREATION

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Abraham Lincoln and Recreation

Dancing

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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COTILLION PARTY.

The pleasure of your Company is respectfully solicited at a Cotillion Party, to be given at the "American House," on to-morrow evening at 7 o'clock, P. M.

December 16th, 1839

N. H. RIDGELY,
J. A. M'CLERNAND,
R. ALLEN,
M. H. WASH,
S. W. TODD,
S. A. DOUGLASS,
W. S. PRENTICE,
H. W. EDWARDS,
J. F. SPEED,
J. SHIELDS,
E. D. TAYLOR,
E. H. MERRYMAN,
H. E. WHITESIDE,
M. EASTHAM,
J. R. DILLER,
A. LINCOLN,
Managers.

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AN INVITATION TO A SPRINGFIELD COTILLION PARTY

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1936 Ill. State Journal 6/30/36

Told Of Lincoln At Dancing Fete In Jacksonville

It was quite the fashion for the young people of Springfield to go to dances in the neighboring towns of Jacksonville and Rochester in the days before the Civil war.

"Mrs. Charles Ridgely," said the late Caroline Brown, "told me of a dance in the former place, held in the old Mansion house at which both Mr. Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas devoted themselves to the lively, interesting Mary Todd. The invitations read: 'Dancing at early candle light.' Lizzie Todd (the mother of John Grimsley) was here with her fiance, Harry Grimsley, and Miss Eliza Barret, who after her widowhood became Mrs. Pascal Enos.

"Both Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas danced repeatedly with the pretty Kentucky girl. Finally, Mr. Lincoln came up, saying, 'Miss Mary, I want to dance with you the worst way.' After the dance was over the lady with more truth than politeness said, 'Mr. Lincoln, I think you have literally fulfilled your request—you have danced the worst way possible.'"

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